

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0434

S E C R E T SEOUL 8920

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS US

SUBJ: REMOVAL OF KCIA AGENTS FROM U.S.

REF: (A) SEOUL 8890, (B) STATE 274196

1. PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY GENERAL KIM CHUNG YUM CALLED ME IN THIS AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 8, TO INFORM US REGARDING ROKG DECISIONS TO REDUCE KCIA AGENTS IN U.S.

2. KIM SAID THAT HE GAVE PRESIDENT PARK FULL REPORT ON OUR CONVERSATION OF NOVEMBER 5 (REF A). HE ALSO SUBSEQUENTLY TALKED TO KCIA DIRECTOR SHIN. AS A RESULT, PRESIDENT PARK HAS MADE SEVERAL DECISIONS REGARDING KCIA ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S.

3. KIM THEN ENUMERATED DECISIONS REACHED REGARDING KCIA ACTIVITIES:

A. KCIA WILL RECALL ALL ITS EMPLOYEES EXCEPT THOSE IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK.

B. WITH RESPECT TO THE WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK KCIA AGENTS, THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME WILL BE REPLACED.

C. THE REMAINING EMPLOYEES OF KCIA IN U.S. WILL CONCENTRATE ON NORMAL INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPING INFORMATION.

D. HEREAFTER ALL ACTIVITIES INVOLVING CONTACT WITH KOREAN RESI-

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DENTS IN U.S. WILL BE ASSUMED BY CAREER DIPLOMATS.

E. THE MEASURES TAKEN TO RECALL AND REPLACE KCIA AGENTS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN GRADUALLY AND STEP BY STEP, TO BE COMPLETED BY MID-JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

4. KIM REQUESTED THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION BE HELD VERY CLOSELY AND BE KEPT VERY CONFIDENTIAL. KIM NOTABLY DID NOT REPEAT NOT MAKE ANY REQUEST FOR RECIPROCAL OR OTHER U.S. ACTIONS.

5. I TOLD KIM THAT I THOUGHT THESE ACTIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ROKG. I ALSO GAVE KIM COPY OF GWERTZMAN'S NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE, STRESSING THIS WAS PART OF OUR EFFORT TO REASSURE ROK ON U.S. COMMITMENT AND PLACE RECENT PRESS ALLEGATION IN PERSPECTIVE OF OUR BROADER RELATIONSHIP (REF B). KIM WAS APPRECIATIVE.
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